

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method for treating a bone condition, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of FGF-8, FGF-8 analog, or a FGF-8 agonist.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence of FGF-8 is SEQ ID NO: 1, 2,  
5 or 3.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises a fragment or the entirety of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.
- 10 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the fragment is less than 50 amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 60% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.
- 15 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 14 conservative amino acid substitutions.
7. A method for increasing or maintaining bone density, comprising administering to a  
20 subject in need thereof an effective amount of FGF-8, FGF-8 analog, or a FGF-8 agonist.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the amino acid sequence of FGF-8 is SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.
- 25 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises a fragment or the entirety of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the fragment is less than 50 amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

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11. The method of claim 7, wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 60% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 14 conservative amino acid substitutions.

13. A method for stimulating osteoblast growth or modulating osteoblast apoptosis, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of FGF-8, FGF-8 analog, or a FGF-8 agonist.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the amino acid sequence of FGF-8 is SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises a fragment or the entirety of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the fragment is less than 50 amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 60% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 14 conservative amino acid substitutions.

19. An article of manufacture comprising:

a vessel containing FGF-8, FGF-8 analog, or a FGF-8 agonist; and

written instructions for use of FGF-8, FGF-8 analog, or a FGF-8 agonist for treatment of a bone condition comprising administering an effective amount of FGF-8, FGF-8 analog, or a FGF-8 agonist to a patient.

20. An article of manufacture comprising:  
    packaging material; and  
    contained within the packaging material, FGF-8, FGF-8 analog, or a FGF-8 agonist;  
    wherein the packaging material comprises a label that indicates that FGF-8, FGF-8  
5     analog, or a FGF-8 agonist can be used for treating a bone condition in a patient.
21. A method for treating or preventing osteoporosis, osteopenia, bone defects, or  
    osteogenesis imperfecta, comprising:  
    administration to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of FGF-8, FGF-8  
analog, or FGF-8 agonist.
22. A composition comprising FGF-8, FGF-8 analog, or FGF-8 agonist and a  
pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.